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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, ETECH
SUBJECT: UNCTAD INFORMAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRES FOR TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

SUMMARY. SUBJECT SEMINAR REVEALED THAT LDC EXPERTS SEE NEED FOR MUCH MORE WORK AT NATIONAL LEVEL BEFORE THEIR COUNTRIES READY TO ESTABLISH CENTRES FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. UNTIL SUCH WORK DONE, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD NOT CONSIDER SETTING UP INTERNATIONAL CENTRES. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY MEETING, UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ORGANIZED INFORMAL SEMINAR OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRES FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY (DEC 8-12). SEMINAR, WHICH FINANCED BY GRANT FROM CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, WAS AT FIRST ONLY OPEN TO EXPERTS FROM GROUP OF 77 COUNTRIES. AT INSISTENCE OF CANADA AND OTHER MEMBERS GROUP B, SEMINAR OPENED TO REPRESENTATIVES GROUP B COUNTRIES AS OBSERVERS; AT LAST MINUTE ALL COUNTRIES INCLUDED AS FULL PARTICIPANTS. ABOUT 39 EXPERTS PARTICIPATED IN SEMINAR INCLUDING 18 FROM CAPITALS. COPY OF SEMINAR REPORT AND DOCUMENTS POUCHED EB/OT/GCP-
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SLATTERY.

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2. SEMINAR NOTABLE IN THAT LDCS EXPERTS MADE CLEAR
THAT TIME NOT RIPE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO
ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL CENTRES INVOLVED IN TRANSFER OF
TECHNOLOGY. WE BELIEVE OR AT LEAST WE HOPE SEMINAR
PUT CHECK ON ANY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IDEAS OF GOING
FULL-STEAM AHEAD ON SUCH A PROJECT.

3. FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT POINTS MADE DURING
SEMINAR:

A. TYPE OF MECHANISM EACH INDIVIDUAL LDC ESTABLISHES TO
CONTROL AND MONITOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY PROCESS WITHIN
ITS BORDERS WILL DEPEND ON ITS LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND
POLITICAL SYSTEM. IN SOME COUNTRIES NATIONAL CENTRES
MAY BE DESIRABLE AND IN OTHERS COORDINATED GOVERNMENT
POLICIES WILL BE SUFFICIENT.

B. UNTIL EACH LDC DECIDES WHAT KIND OF POLICIES IT WANTS
TO HAVE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND WHAT ITS NEEDS
ARE, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CANNOT
PLAY A ROLE. THE EXPERTS TENDED TO DOWNPLAY ROLE OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY
PROCESS AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF WORK AT THE
NATIONAL LEVEL.

4. REPRESENTATIVE FROM ANDEAN PACT, RICHARDO SOIFER,
PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE ON THE UTILITY OF TECHNOLOGY DATA
BANKS WHICH TRY TO STORE INFORMATION AND EFFECTIVE-
NESS OF ANY INSTITUTION INTENDED TO CONTROL TRANSFER OF
TECHNOLOGY PROCESS WHICH WAS NOT INTEGRAL PART OF
DECISION MAKING PROCESS. OTHER DELEGATES STRESSED THAT
BEFORE THEIR COUNTRY COULD ESTABLISH INSTITUTIONS TO
MONITOR AND REGULATE TECHNOLOGY CONTRACTS
THEIR NATIONALS NEEDED IMPROVED TECHNICAL TRAINING
AND MORE INFORMATION ON TYPES OF TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE
TO THEM FOR ANY PARTICULAR TYPE OF ENTERPRISE.

5. IN FINAL REPORT GROUP B COUNTRIES EXPRESSED RESER-
VATIONS ABOUT, BUT WERE UNABLE TO GET CHANGED,
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SENTENCE STATING THAT ONE OF FUNCTIONS OF CENTRES SHOULD
BE TO ASSIST IN NEGOTIATING BEST POSSIBLE TERMS IN CASE
OF IMPORTED TECHNOLOGY. DEFENDANTS OF SENTENCE,
HOWEVER, MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BE FUNCTION
ON NATIONAL CENTRES WHERE A COUNTRY'S LAWS MANDATED
SUCH ACTIONS.

6. SECRETARIAT SAYS THAT RESULTS OF MEETING WILL BE

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INCORPORATED INTO BACKGROUND PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED TO
SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
IN MARCH. PAPERS MAY, HOWEVER, NOT BE READY WITHIN
SIX WEEK DEADLINE.DALE

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